

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HOME STAR ENERGY RETROFIT ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5019) to provide for the establishment of the Home Star Retrofit Rebate Program, and for other purposes:

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Chair, I rise today in support of the Home Star Energy Retrofit Act of 2010 (H.R. 5019), which aims to provide an incentive based program for homeowners who invest in improving their home's energy efficiency.

Energy efficiency is the fastest and cheapest way to reduce our energy consumption in the home, and cut energy costs for American households. According to the Alliance to Save Energy, the average American household spends \$2,100 each year paying for home energy, and could save 25 percent through better energy efficiency. Beyond the benefits of lowering the cost of energy bills for American households, energy efficiency plays a critical role throughout the U.S. by reducing energy consumption, which improves our energy security.

Recognizing that the national debt continues to grow, Congress has the responsibility to pay-as-we-go, and ensure that appropriated funds proceed through the budget process. For this reason, I also support the amendment to sunset the Act if the funding for this program will have a negative net effect on the federal budget deficit.

Because funding under the ARRA for the weatherization program has been slow to implement, I also have concerns regarding the Department of Energy's ability to implement this new program under the tight deadlines required by the bill. Authorizing this program, instead of providing emergency spending, will hopefully give Congress adequate oversight over implementation of the program, which will still be subject to available funding through the regular appropriations process.

BACH FESTIVAL OF WINTER PARK, FLORIDA

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 7, 2010

Mr. MICA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring special recognition to the Bach Festival Society of Winter Park, Florida. This year 2010 marks the 75th Anniversary of this significant cultural organization and its outstanding music festival.

Over the past decades thousands of people have enjoyed and participated in the special

event that highlights and appreciates musical performances and talented artists. This unique event which has been supported by local citizens, state and federal agencies has enriched the lives of countless individuals for three quarters of a century.

This year's 75th Winter Park Bach Festival coincides with the 325th birthday of Johann Sebastian Bach. Although the composer and master of music is long departed, this extraordinary music celebration allows his work and the music of other great masters to live on and be enjoyed today.

Congratulations to all those associated with and supporting this effort, including the festival's host Rollins College and its renowned Knowles Memorial Chapel. Special recognition is also well deserved for the Bach Festival Board of Trustees and its staff who work to carry on this great cultural legacy.

Also it is important to highlight the Festival Society's efforts to promote a young artist's competition that ensures great talent and fosters music appreciation in our future generations.

Madam Speaker, I know my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives join me in praising and saluting the special accomplishments and anniversary of the Winter Park Bach Festival and its society members.

A TRIBUTE TO VICKI LEVIN, PUBLIC SERVANT

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 7, 2010

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise to direct the House's attention to Public Service Recognition Week, a time in which we honor the more than 20 million men and women who serve our Nation as Federal, State, county and local government employees.

On May 4, 2010, I joined the Partnership for Public Service at an event they hosted to commend all of our Nation's public servants and to recognize one in particular: the late Vicki Levin, wife of our colleague from Michigan. The Partnership presented a plaque to Representative SANDY LEVIN with the following inscription: "In memory of Vicki Levin with deep appreciation for three decades of dedicated service to our country." I was pleased to offer the following remarks to commend our Nation's public servants and to honor Vicki Levin. I also wish to enclose in the RECORD a column reflecting on Vicki's exemplary public service, written by the Levins' son, Andy.

REMARKS AT THE PARTNERSHIP FOR PUBLIC SERVICE RECEPTION HONORING VICKI LEVIN

Thank you for inviting me to join you at tonight's celebration of Public Service Recognition Week. It's a pleasure to be here and to help acknowledge the contributions of our nation's public servants—and of one very dedicated individual in particular.

As a political scientist by training, I am often asked about how the academic perspec-

tive of government compares with the day to day reality. The question itself is as interesting as the answer, because it reveals the tendency of both academics and civilians to view government as a kind of abstract entity. But in a representational democracy, government is very much a living entity. It is intended to be an instrument of our common purpose, and like most instruments, it doesn't play itself. People make government work.

People keep us safe from terrorist threats and food-borne illness; people develop new treatments for diseases; people protect our natural resources. The list goes on and on, and yet, far too often, we overlook—or simply take for granted—these people: America's public servants. And so for all you do to make government work in pursuit of the greater good, let me say thank you.

You stepped up to the plate, and we urgently need to find more people who are willing to take up the mantle of public service. In the next few years, an estimated one-third of the government's top scientists, engineers, physicians, mathematicians, economists, and other highly specialized professionals are expected to retire.

Since a high-quality workforce is the key to success for any organization, we need to both inspire the next generation to enter government service—and make sure we have the tools to compete for the country's best minds. I'm pleased to have worked with the Partnership for Public Service on legislation to do just that: The Roosevelt Scholars Act (H.R. 1161). This legislation would create a much needed pipeline of talent for the federal government by awarding graduate-level scholarships to students who commit to public service.

Another element of our personnel and recruitment efforts must be recognizing public servants and lauding the intrinsic rewards of a career in government service. I believe it is the personal stories of our public servants themselves that will best help us make this case.

One such person is Vicki Levin, the dear wife of our friend and colleague Congressman Sandy Levin, who passed away in September 2008.

The Levin family has a long record of service in our justice and judicial systems both in their home state of Michigan and here in Congress. Sandy chairs the Ways and Means Committee in the House while his brother Carl chairs Armed Services in the Senate; they are the longest-serving brothers in congressional history and one of the few sets ever to serve as chairman simultaneously. And yet Sandy's son, Andy, who oversees workforce development and adult education programs for the state of Michigan, says it was not his father or his uncle who inspired him to choose a career in public service.

Andy wrote a column about his mother shortly after her death, the sort of column any of us would be immeasurably proud to have our children write. Andy says this about the source of his inspiration: "my mom . . . not famous and never elected to office . . . a classic 'Washington bureaucrat'."

Vicki worked for nearly three decades—until health reasons forced her to retire—as a science research officer for a variety of agencies within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). During her career there, as well as for much of her

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